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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. Supervision. In 1950 a Department for Combat Training was created in the Ministry of National Defense (Ministerstvo narodni obrany - MNO), and combat training sections were created at military district and corps headquarters. The task of the department and the sections is to direct the combat training program, which was formerly under the supervision of the operations sections of the individual units. At divisional command level, training is still the responsibility of the operations section.
2. The Combat Training Department of the MNO has issued a manual, called "Combat Training Program" (Program bojove pripravy) which divides the yearly infantry training program into four parts. The autumn period is devoted to the training of individual enlisted men, the winter period to infantry squad team work, the spring to platoon training, and the summer to the training of companies and battalions. Every training task is described in detail, even to the number of hours which should be devoted to it. The manual will apparently serve a useful purpose in standardizing training throughout the Czechoslovak Army.
3. The Combat Training Department also issues a periodical, called "Battle Preparedness" (Bojova priprava), which contains translations from Soviet military magazines.

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5. Battle Preparedness Tests. Battle preparedness tests are given units annually by the Combat Training Department of the MNO upon the completion of the annual training program. Special boards of field grade officers are appointed to test each unit and evaluate its performance. Units perform prescribed maneuvers and exercises, during which officers and enlisted men are asked questions by the boards. Upon completion of the test, the results of the exercises and the answers to the questions are summarized, evaluated and submitted to the Combat Training Department. If the test results are poor, the commanding officer of the unit is relieved of command and assigned to a less responsible position.
6. The performance of units during these tests in the fall of 1951 was extremely poor. The majority of units were classified as unsatisfactory by the test boards. One of the reasons for the poor showing appeared to stem from the fact that incompetent officers, called to active service from the reserves, had been put into command positions for which they lacked ability and experience.

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